

24564B

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20 and 24-26 are pending in the instant application. Claims 10, 11 and 25 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3, 5, 6, 20, 24 and 26 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following amendments and remarks.

New Claims/Cancellation of Claims

New claims 27-34 have been added herein. No new matter has been added and support for the new claims can be found in the specification at page 12, lines 12-24 to paragraphs 3-4 to page 13, lines 1-9. New claims 27-34 claim the method of applying the aqueous liquid coating composition claimed in commonly owned U.S. Patent 6,380,298 (Serial No. 09/190,866) which is the parent case of the present divisional application. New method claim 27 contains language found in the originally filed method claim 15 of the parent case (canceled as a result of a restriction requirement in the parent case and by Preliminary Amendment in the present case on October 26, 2001) and language from allowed claim 1 of the parent case (U.S. 6,380,298). Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20 and 24-26 have been canceled herein.

Election/Restriction Requirement

The Examiner states that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121: Group I (Claims 3, 5, 6, 20, 24 and 26) or Group II (claims 10, 11 and 25). Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 20 and 24-26 have been canceled herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Allowability

Applicants believe that the new method claims are allowable over Barch et al. (4,466,151), Gaa et al. (4,810,576), Kroesbergen (WO 96/23024), and other patents

24564B

cited in the case, since none of these references, alone or in combination, teach a method of applying an aqueous coating composition comprising a solution of a water-soluble, superabsorbent polymer precursor in aqueous solution to an article and curing the polymer precursor on the article to form a superabsorbent polymer coating.

Conclusion

New claims 27-34 are the only claims in the case and applicants kindly request that they be allowed for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicant authorizes any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Marla C. Gasaway
Marla C. Gasaway
Reg. No. 51,721

Date: July 28, 2003

Owens Corning
2790 Columbus Road, Bldg. 54
Granville, OH 43023
(740) 321-7213